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MR. Eshkol asked for a time limit for Arab deliberations at last week's formal meeting with Mr. Eric Johnston, the perennially optimistic mediator. It is to be hoped that he was able to impose the urgency of the occasion upon Mr. Johnston, who has now been scurrying around the Middle Eastern capitals for almost two years in the hope of establishing a regional water scheme.

For Israel, an agreed scheme has undeniable attractions, though this country is not likely to permit water to go to waste that Jordan is incapable of using for lack of irrigable land in the vicinity of the river. While it is mainly Jordan that stands to benefit, and is willing to participate, one of the serious obstacles to progress has been the shifting, nervous regimes of Syria and Egypt find it difficult to retreat from their belligerent attitudes even when they would like to do so. In order that the negotiations could continue at all, they have been veiled in secrecy, and this secrecy has necessarily been in force in Israel also. Whenever there have been significant developments, the Prime Minister, Mr. Sharett, has reported to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee, which is authorized to express an opinion, and before any treaty can be entered into, its details will of course have to be made known and approved by the Knesset. But in a democracy, as opposed to a dictatorship, there is a time limit for such semi-secret negotiations, and Mr. Eshkol's request is an indication that the time for Mr. Johnston's discreet and diplomatic, and apparently not unsuccessful, lobbying is almost at an end.

Under the influence of Egypt, which was permitted to take an active share in the deliberations, it is possible that the whole plan will be rejected by the Arab states for fear that it might be interpreted as implying recognition of Israel, or involve them in an obligation to resettle refugees. It is in fact difficult to see how the most rational of negotiations can be concluded if they are subject to the veto of a man motivated by neurotic fears and hatreds such as those now mouthed by Egypt's dictator, who has seen the Israel forces out-fight, out-manoeuvre and outwit his army at every turn. But while he may defy political reason, he cannot fight geographical fact. Failing the agreement, which provides for reservoirs in Jordan for the waters of Jordan's Yarmuk river, and a share for Jordan of the river emerging from Lake Kinneret, there is no way for the Arabs to prevent the waters of the Hasbani, the Banias and the Yarmuk from running down into the Jordan, or Israel from using them as she chooses. Jordan will not receive American aid to build reservoirs for more water than it can use, nor can it be supposed that the Lebanon will invest millions to divert the Hasbani from its course merely in order to prevent its waters from reaching Israel. It is true that if the negotiations fail and Israel resumes work alone on the Jordan, Syrian snipers may get to work again. But this, also, is not an insuperable obstacle, and Syria is not likely to expose itself too greatly to the danger of war with Israel. It looks as though the Arab deliberations, faced by this dilemma, have fallen back on the time-honoured practice of putting off the evil day of decision. The Israel Government must press this advantage and carry on with the work alone if it cannot be done in concert.

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THE JERUSALEM POST

From the Memoirs of *Harry Truman*

BIG THREE'S FIRST MEETING

The "Big Three," with Mr. Truman as Chairman, held their first meeting at Potsdam on July 17, and discussed the agenda for subsequent meetings. Mr. Truman himself hoped by suggesting a Council of Foreign Ministers to prepare for the Peace Conference, with China and France added to the existing three Powers.

He next presented a document outlining American views on the political and economic principles under which Germany should be controlled.

I THEN submitted the following statement, which I read: "In the Yalta Declaration on Liberated Europe signed Feb. 11, 1945, the three Governments assumed certain obligations in regard to the political and economic principles under which Germany should be controlled."

The United States Government should agree on a policy of the immediate reorganization of the present Governments in Germany and Italy.

My final suggestion for the agenda concerned a revision of our policy towards Italy. I explained that because the Italian Government in the hands of the Germans, I thought the time had come to admit Italy to the United Nations, and I wished to submit a proposal looking towards the establishment of peace with Italy.

Churchill interrupted. He pointed out that we were preparing to deal with very important policies too hastily. The British, he said, were attacked by Italy in 1940 at the time France was going down, which was described by President Roosevelt as "a stab in the back." The British had fought the



First Meeting of Big Three at Potsdam took place on July 17, 1945, when Winston Churchill (right) was still Britain's Prime Minister. President Truman is in centre and Marshal Stalin is shown on left.

lians for some time before the United States came in. At a most critical time they were obliged to send poorly needed troops to Africa, and they had fought two years on those shores until the arrival of the American forces, he added. He also pointed out that the British had suffered heavy naval losses in the war with Italy in the Mediterranean.

Churchill suggested that I proceed with the presentation of my proposal. Stalin agreed. I then submitted a document on Italy which stated, in part: "The objectives of the three Governments with regard to Italy are directed towards her early political independence and economic recovery, and the right of the Italian people ultimately to choose their own form of government."

After submitting the four American proposals, I said that although I considered these questions of the highest importance, I wanted it understood that I might add other items to the agenda. Turning to Churchill and Stalin, I expressed my appreciation of the honour of being designated chairman and said that I would welcome any proposals or suggestions they had in mind.

I added that I was glad to be at this conference. I had come with some trepidation, I said, realizing that I had to succeed a man who really was irreplaceable.

I was aware that President Roosevelt had been on the friendliest terms with both the Prime Minister and Premier Stalin. I said that I was hopeful of merging that same friendship and goodwill.

Stalin spoke next. He set forth the questions Russia wished to discuss. These dealt with (1) the division of the German merchant fleet and navy; (2) reparations; (3) trusteeships for Russia under the San Francisco Charter; (4) relations with the Axis satellite States; (5) the Franco regime in Spain.

At this point in the outline of his proposals, the Russian leader directed to declare that the Spanish regime did not originate in Spain but was imported and forced on the Spanish people by Germany and Italy. It was a danger to the United Nations, he said, and he thought it would be well to create conditions which would enable the Spanish people to establish the regime they wanted.

Churchill pointed out to Stalin that we were only discussing things to go on the agenda, but agreed that the matter of Spain should be added.

Stalin continued his list with (6) the question of Tangier; (7) the problem of Syria and the Lebanon; and (8) the Polish question, involving the determination of Poland's western frontier and the liquidation of the London Provisional Government.

Churchill agreed that all aspects of the Polish question should be taken up. He stated that he was sure the Premier and I would realize that Britain had been the home of the Polish Government and the base from which the Polish armies were maintained and paid.

He said that, although all three of us might have the same ob-

jectives, the British would have a harder task than the other two Powers because they would have the details to handle. They did not wish to release large numbers of soldiers in their midst without making proper provision for them.

He observed that it was important to continue to carry out the Yalta agreement and that he attached great importance to the Polish elections in the people that would be reflected.

The British were submitting their proposed agenda in writing, and he suggested that the Foreign Secretaries meet that night and agree on the items which we would discuss the following day. Stalin and I agreed.

Churchill remarked: "The Foreign Ministers can prepare a menu for us better than we could at this table, so tomorrow we shall have prepared for us the points which are most agreeable — or, perhaps, I should say, the least disagreeable."

Stalin rejoined that all the same, we should not escape the disagreeable ones.

This is the 15th instalment of Harry S. Truman's Memoirs of his first year in the Presidency. Copyright by "Time" Inc. and I.C.P.S. English rights in Israel reserved by The Jerusalem Post.

Nature Notes

Lizards' Baby Season

EVEN though the bird nursery is bristling with them, a great deal of heart-burning for me because of the crickets or runts found and committed to my care with various results — still it is the most interesting time. Now, in autumn, there is some small compensation to be found among the birds' ancestors, the reptile tribe. Both geckos and chameleons, these two most fascinating lizards, exceedingly useful to man, feeding exclusively on insects, have now come from their eggs and can be seen, when looked for in the right places.

I always have geckoes' eggs in the chest where I keep my winter blankets, and in September I open it a crack and find babies of pin length settling about. To watch such a minute stalker, a little black moth, swallowing it with the greatest

Japanese Resent U.S. Bases

By MICHAEL GORDON

TOKYO (OFNS).—AN increase in the number of incidents here involving United States security forces and the Japanese civil population within the past few months has posed a serious political problem for the already shaky Japanese Government.

It has posed an even more serious problem for Washington, however, where the question of revision of the present United States-Japanese Mutual Security Agreement is now being studied. And, in the opinion of many Western observers here, it may mean that the United States Government will be forced to reconsider the basic question of whether or not it is necessary or feasible to continue maintenance of some 30,000 United States ground troops now scattered about on bases in Japan's main islands.

Organized civilian opposition to the maintenance and operation of United States military installations in Japan has been gradually approaching boiling point for more than a year. There is a strong segment of public opinion which is neutral in sentiment, and which feels that the presence of United States military forces here does little more than invite a hostile attitude from the Communist bloc. Besides this, there are those who argue that through military occupation, the United States is in a position to exercise undue influence upon Japanese internal affairs, and therefore to compromise Japanese sovereignty.

These arguments are championed particularly by the Japanese Socialists, who now have sufficient strength in the Diet to make them effective. When the Left and Right-wing Socialists finally merge, they have already dissolved their separate organizations prior to joining forces. Socialist opposition to the present pattern of military defence in Japan is likely to become even more forceful.

Readers' Letters

HEBREW LESSONS

Sir, — The Israel Broadcasting Service is to be congratulated on having found such a capable teacher as Dr. Kamrat for their Hebrew lesson, in the immigrant programmes. But is it not a pity that these lessons are tucked away between the Ladino broadcast and the interval? I doubt whether many would-be pupils recognize Ladino and know when to stay put.

If the lesson could be repeated three or four times in the same afternoon, pupils could hear it several times and this would give them a substitute for language records which are so popular a means of teaching abroad. Again, perhaps the lessons could be based on the correspondence course of the Ministry of Education. In this way, great help could be provided with little extra expense.

Yours etc.
 DR. LILY EPSTEIN
 Jerusalem, September 25

Broadcasting Service Replies

The question of general programming is a most difficult one since we are limited both by time and manpower. As a matter of fact, this is the first time since the beginning of our Hebrew lessons that we have had any complaint. Almost everyone listening to the immigrant programmes knows exactly on what wavelength they are broadcast and at what time of the day. Such listeners are not deterred by the fact that there is a programme in Ladino before the Hebrew lessons or that the programme comes at that specific hour of the day.

We hope to discuss this possibility of extending these courses so that they reach the greatest number.

Yours etc.
 HARRY ENDER
 Director
 Israel Broadcasting Service
 Jerusalem, October 5

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Readers' Letters

S.S. "ISRAEL"

Sir, — In your article of today on the S.S. Israel and its interior, you have given us too much credit. Messrs. Zim commissioned us together with our colleagues, M. Weinraub and Al Mansfeld of Haifa, to do the interiors of this and the other passenger vessels which are being built for them in Germany.

Yours etc.
 D & Y. GAD
 Tel Aviv, October 6

PEN FRIENDS

JENNIFER BORN, 14, P.O.B. 17, Steyvers, So. Africa, seeks a pen pal boy aged 15 or 16. Her hobbies are sports, reading and music.

SHIRLEY METTERWITZ, 22, Persimmon Street, P.O.B. 17, So. Africa, whose hobbies are swimming, tennis and reading, seeks a pen pal aged 18 or 19.

MARLENE RALPH, P.O.B. 94, Heilbronn, O.F.S., So. Africa, 17, wishes to correspond with a boy aged 19 to 21. Her hobbies are music, reading, sport and a whole, especially tennis.

ELLEN HENSHAW, 14, of 44 Whitman Street, Fawcett, S.I., U.S.A., would like to have a boy pen pal about 15 or 16 years of age. Her hobbies are sports, music and correspondence. Along with school work, she studies the piano and organ and also gives piano lessons.

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MUSICAL DIARY

Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. Conductor: Enrique Jordá. Violin: Viora Vronsky and Victor Babin, two pianos. (Edison Hall, October 13). Berlin: Overture to the opera "Ronde Patetico"; Yehuda Weill: "Ronde Patetico"; Mozart: Concerto in E-flat major for Two Pianos and Orchestra; Schumann: Symphony No. 2 in D-flat major, Op. 47 ("Rheinisches"); Rimsky-Korsakov: Introduction and "Cortege des Noces" from "Coeur d'ar."

THE I.P.O.'s opening bill in Jerusalem left us with mixed impressions. On the one hand it was good to hear Vronsky and Babin again; on the other it was disappointing to see Mr. Jordá, a conductor of stature and international reputation, provided with a selection that could hardly serve to demonstrate his comprehensive musical capacities.

The sole exception was the Schumann Symphony; Mr. Jordá's interpretation was powerful throughout. Although he disregarded the cadenza in the Scherzo (Schumann here has a very different concept of what a prelude should be from his predecessor) the work was brought to an effective climax in the Cathedral scene and rounded off in a vivid Finale.

Vronsky and Babin gave us an intimate and gracefully shaped reading of the Double Concerto. It was but a pity that in the orchestral accompaniment our violins did not support the two pianos more expressively.

The eclectic modernism of Mr. Weill's "Ronde Patetico" has nothing to reveal that was not said long before, and shows a rather clumsy composing hand. Yet we were extremely pleased to see that local composers have, after all, a chance of having their works performed by this country's leading orchestra.

Kel Vernald Orchestra. Conductor: George Slinger. (T.M.C.A. Hall, October 11). Kravitz: Simfonietta for Strings, Lavy: "The Cuckoo's Variations" at a Pella song. Mendelssohn: "Cello and Piano" Voyage; Overture in D major, No. 28.

ERNEST Kravitz, whose Simfonietta has now been given its first performance in Israel, is one of the schoolchildren of our contemporary repertoire, either because of technical difficulties or through lack of understanding of the 12-tone technique.

The Simfonietta was nevertheless the focal point on last Tuesday's bill, and it was certainly a courageous try with an audience that accounts Debussy an "ultra modern" composer.

ADRIATICA

S.S. MESSAPIA — arriving Haifa at 9 a.m. October 12, leaving the same day at 2 p.m. for LARNACA, FIRAUS, RANI, VENICE, TRIESTE.

M.V. F. GRIMANI — arriving Haifa at 7 a.m. on Oct. 24, leaving the same day at 2 p.m. for LARNACA, FIRAUS, NAPLES, GENOA.

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Krenak (b. Vienna, 1900) went through various periods in his career as a composer. His is the credit for writing the first jazz opera, "Jonny Spielt Auf," completed in 1926. By way of classical ventures he became an ardent follower of Arnold Schoenberg, and since the late thirties has been one of the most orthodox advocates of this trend.

The Simfonietta demonstrates Krenak's simultaneous interest in moulding the musical material to extra tightness in form and in displaying tense sonorities through the limited body of strings. The contrapuntal weaving of the voices recalls, although on an altogether different plane, early Renaissance polyphony. This music might at first sound shocking

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